Government and further release of funds pending utilisation of the diverted amount was stopped. An amount of Rs. 345.38 lakhs out of the diverted amount of Rs. 504.82 lakhs has so far been released by the State Government to the executing agency up to May, 1997. The State Government has been directed to release the remaining amount of Rs. 159.44 lakhs also to the executing agency immediately. It has also been decided to release further funds to the State Government on quarterly basis after receipt of proper utilisation certificate for the previous quarter.

Revival of National Security Council

2409. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive National Security Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether such a move will cost the Central exchequer heavily; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with benefits to be gained by common citizen of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The National Security Council was constituted on 24th August, 1990, with the Prime Minister as its Chairman and Ministers of Defence, Finance, Home and External Affairs as Members. The main endeavour of the National Security Council is to evolve an integrated approach to policy making as it affects national security taking into account the linkages between the evolving external situation in the political, military and economic fields and our domestic situation.

Proposals and suggestions to restructure the National Security Council with a view to making it a more effective body for achieving the purposes for which it was constituted, are presently before the Government and while restructuring the NSC, financil implications, if any, will be taken into consideration. Besides, other mechanisms like the Cabinet Committee on Security, Strategic Policy Group and Joint Intelligence Committee are in place to address specific aspects of national security.

Wheat Smuggled to Pakistan

2410. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that significant quantity of wheat has been smuggled out to Pakistan from Punjab and Rajasthan borders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is its impact on the procurement target and wheat prices; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) No reports regarding smuggling of wheat to pakistan from Indo-Pak border have been received and no seizures have been made by BSF. BSF troops on the border have, however, been sensitised to check the smuggling of wheat and other contraband.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Bangladeshi Infiltrators residing in the Country

2411. SHRI O. P. KHOLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Minister had stated in the Parliament during the last Session that about one crore

Bangladeshi infiltrators are illegaliy living in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether a very large number of Bangladeshi infiltrators are illegally living in the capital also; and

(c) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken to identify and deport such infiltrators from Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware that Bangladeshi infiltrators have managed to sneak into places like Delhi and other metropolitan cities.

(c) Powers under the Foreigners Act, 1946 to identity, detect and deport foreign nationals residing illegally in various parts of the country have been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to intensify efforts to identify and deport such foreign nationals and also to sensitise the local population about the magnitude and seriousness of the problem.

Freedom Fighters/POW's Pensions

2412. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of cases regarding grant of freedom fighter's pension/ POW's pensions are pending with Government for the long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also aware of a number of representations submitted by the MPs in respect of the persons belonging to the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh during the period from February, 1995 till date; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken any action thereon and the reasons for the delay if any, and by when all these cases would be settled and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) As on 30.6.1997, only 49 fresh applications received recently from the following States for grant of freedom fighters' Pension were pending with Government:—

1. Andhra Pradesh	21
2. Bihar	1
3. Haryana	1
4. Himachal Pradesh	1
5. Karnataka	8
6. Maharashtra	6
7. Rajasthan	2
8. Uttar Pradesh	9
Total	49

No application received from ex-INA personnel, covered by the Swatantrate Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 is pending.

(c) and (d) During the period from 1.2.1995 to till date, 16 references have been received from the Members of Parliament in respect of pension cases of the persons belonging to hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. Out of these, 9 references have been disposed and the rest are under consideration. These will be disposed expeditiously.